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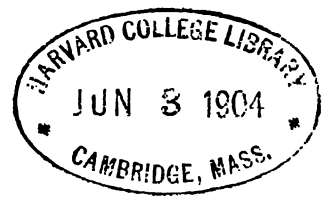

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Reprinted from NEW-ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER
for July, 1904.

WILLIAM SUMNER APPLETON.

WILLIAM SUMNER APPLETON, a life member of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society, was born January 11, 1840, in Boston, Mass.; he died there April 28, 1903, after an illness of several months. He was the elder son of the late Hon. Nathan Appleton by his second wife, Harriot Coffin Sumner, both of Boston. His father, who died in July, 1861, will long be remembered as a prominent merchant, whose large enterprise, distinguished ability, and sterling character honored the city of his residence, which he served with eminent success as its representative in the State Legislature, and for three terms in Congress. The late Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, in a Memorial Tribute, published in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society (Vol. v: p. 250), eulogized him as a man of unsullied integrity, a wise and prudent counsellor, and a citizen who had enjoyed through life the esteem, respect, and confidence of the community in which he lived.

William Sumner was a descendant* of Samuel Appleton, Sr., of Little Waldingfield, England, later one of the early settlers of Ipswich, Mass., and a Deputy to the General Court in 1637, and of Judith Everard, his wife. The second son of the emigrant, Samuel Jr., also born in Little Waldingfield, came to New England with his father; was Major and Commander-in-Chief of the Massachusetts troops† in the great Swamp-fight, a Deputy 1668, and onward, and an Assistant in 1681, and later; his son Isaac was a Lieutenant in the Port Royal Expedition in 1707, and Major of the Essex County regiment; and his son, Isaac Jr., was a Lieutenant in the Provincial Militia in 1771. On his mother's side he was descended from William Sumner, one of the early settlers of Dorchester, Mass., and a Deputy in the General Court in 1666, and later.

* The line of descent was Samuel,[1] of Little Waldingfield and Ipswich, died in Rowley, Mass., and Judith Everard; Samuel,[2] of Ipswich, and Mary Oliver; Isaac,[3] of Ipswich, and Priscilla Baker; Isaac,[4] of Ipswich, and Elizabeth Sawyer; Isaac,[5] of New Ipswich, N. H., and Mary Adams; Nathan,[6] and Harriot Coffin Sumner; William Sumner.[7]

† See "General Register, Society of Colonial Wars," 1899–1902, pp. 550, 551.

He married, August 12, 1871, in Berne, Switzerland, Edith Stuart, daughter of William Stuart Appleton, and of Georgiana L. F. Armistead, whose father was an officer in the U. S. Army. Mrs. Edith S. Appleton was born in Baltimore, Md., and died January 20, 1892; a son and four daughters survive them.

When that admirable teacher the late Epes Sargent Dixwell relinquished the charge of the Boston Public Latin School, which he conducted with such distinguished success for many years, he opened a private school in Boston, to prepare boys for college, and young Appleton was one of his first pupils. The training he there received was careful and thorough, and he entered Harvard in 1856, taking at once a high rank, and graduating in the upper half of his class in 1860; later he entered the Law School, and received the degree of LL.B. in 1865, but never engaged in professional work. How accurate was his scholarship, especially in the languages, was constantly evident in his later years; his translation of a German article on the voyages of the Northmen, his remarks on the character and writings of the late Emile Belot, his letter on Count Rochambeau,— communications to the Massachusetts Historical Society,—all showing how closely he kept in touch with Continental literature, especially when bearing on American history, are sufficient proof of our statement; while the grace and ease with which he rendered the epigraphs on the coins and medals he loved so much to study, and his ready response when asked for an explanation of some puzzling Latin inscription, testified to the exactness of his classical training. I think it may truly be said that few equalled him, and none excelled him, in his skillful and often epigrammatic versions of the condensed legends, or the fragmentary bits of verse from some one of the old Roman poets, which such pieces often bear, but whose meaning, frequently half concealed, rather hints at than reveals the significance of the devices they display and veils in pleasing mystery the thought of their designer. I recall no American numismatist, save perhaps the late Professor Anthon, who so happily read these legends, and interpreted medallic symbols. And it was the historic side of these numismatic charades,—if I may so style them,—and not the fanciful garb they wear, which aroused his interest.

As illustrative of this trait of Mr. Appleton's character, I may mention his attitude towards two very different classes of medieval pieces, which yet have certain points of resemblance. The curious alchemistic and astrological medals, with their triangles and pentagons, their mystical planetary emblems, and their solemnly absurd invocations of spirits, angelic or otherwise, amused him, but failed entirely to attract his study. He regarded them as merely showing a singular phase of what passed for learning in the period when they were struck, but utterly worthless from the historian's point of view. On the other hand, pieces like the remarkable series of thalers,— quite as mystical in their devices to an ordinary observer,—which

were coined by Augustus, Duke of Brunswick, during the Thirty Years' War (most, if not all, in the eventful year of 1643), had for him a peculiar charm. This group of seven pieces is known as that of the "Bell Thalers," from the fact that all of them bear a bell; on some, it has no clapper; on some, the clapper detached, lies near it, while on others the bell is complete, and on one, vigorously swinging. Their mottoes too are equally unintelligible; usually they have but a word or two—"SIC NISI," "UTI SIC NISI," "TANDEM," "SED," and a few letters, generally believed to be the initials of some Latin sentence, on the interpretation of which authorities are even now not entirely agreed. Coins like these, which have a distinct though not always an easily understood allusion to contemporary history, possessed for him a special fascination. They courted and received his careful and often protracted study; labor in this direction was a delight, and he persisted in his effort to decipher their mysteries until the riddle was solved to his satisfaction.

Quaint devices and baffling legends, like those to which I have alluded, gave zest to Mr. Appleton's taste for historical research, but they were by no means necessary to incite it. He prepared for the Massachusetts Historical Society a valuable paper (see Proceedings, Second Series, Vol. v: p. 348, *et seq.*) on the eminent French medallist, Augustin Dupré, whose medals,—among them that commemorating the victory of the Bon Homme Richard under John Paul Jones over the Serapis, those of Gen. Morgan and Gen. Greene over the British, the fine bust of Franklin with Turgot's famous epigram, "*Eripuit caelo fulmen*" etc. (suggested by a verse in the Astronomicon of Manilius), and above all his charming head of Liberty, by far the most beautiful of the Peace medals which followed the close of the Revolution,—are well known to American collectors. All these medals graced his cabinet. His trenchant paper on the remarkable attribution of the token of an English Musical Society (a local issue known as the "Avalonia piece" and of a comparatively recent period) to an American colony and to a date a century and more before its issue; his exhaustive list of the Issues of the United States Mint; his very complete Catalogues of Washington, Franklin, and other medals; his descriptions of the boastful tokens of Admiral Vernon and the capture of Porto Bello, and others which need not be mentioned here, show how thoroughly he had mastered the connection between History and Numismatics.

His study was by no means confined to American pieces, or the European issues which relate to our Colonial history. A single incident will show how wide and how minute as well, was his knowledge of ancient coins. It chanced that he one day called at the office of the writer to look over some recent numbers of the Continental coin journals which came to the editorial table of the Journal of Numismatics. In one of these was the account of a "find," mostly of Roman coins, among which was one never before noticed, which

was specially interesting as bearing the name of a Cæsar previously unknown to historians. Having some slight familiarity with Roman Imperial coins, this discovery was on lines which to me were so novel that it had at once attracted my notice, and I called Mr. Appleton's attention to the item. "Oh, yes," said he, before glancing at the account in the magazine, "I presume it belongs to such a group." And this was precisely the case. It is needless to say, that knowing as I did, and perhaps no one knew it better, his wonderful mastery of the science, I was yet astonished at his instantaneous placing of this coin from the very brief description I had given him.

While the writer was preparing for publication the manuscript on "Contemporary Medals Illustrative of American Colonial History," left unfinished by the late Mr. C. Wyllys Betts, Mr. Appleton's thorough acquaintance with this interesting class of pieces was of great assistance; and it was most willingly and courteously given; while his familiarity with the historic events which led to their mintage was equalled only by his readiness to bring examples from his magnificent cabinet, whenever they might serve to elucidate some doubtful point.

His disquisition on "A Uniform Coinage," which was the title of his "Commencement part," and the fact that he was one of the founders of the Boston Numismatic Society in the year that he graduated, that he served it as its Secretary until his death, together with his constant and regular attendance at its meetings for over forty years, except when abroad, and his letters to its membership while on the Continent, show how deep and genuine was his interest in this department of his three favorite studies — Numismatics, Heraldry and Genealogy. Indeed before he entered college he had begun the collection of the cabinet which, to the very close of his life, was an unfailing source of pleasure, and which it is earnestly to be hoped may be preserved intact as a monument to his memory. He was unceasing in his efforts to complete his series of coins and medals having reference to events in American history, and there are those who will recall his delight when he informed a few sympathetic friends of his success in obtaining originals of the rare Oswego medal, and the still rarer "Diplomatic" Medal, for which he had long been watching, and which he exhibited and described at a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society in the winter of 1894, and to his associates in the Numismatic Society.

Perhaps I have lingered too long over Mr. Appleton's devotion to coin study, which from our joint connection with the Journal of Numismatics, and his constant interest in its success for thirty years and more, I had frequent occasion to recognize, to the very close of his life. And yet I am inclined to believe that that devotion may have been the key to his interest in the kindred topic of heraldry, out of which grew in turn his love of genealogical research. It has well been said that "heraldry is one of the innumerable auxiliary

sciences which an accomplished coin-connoisseur must know." And surely this was an accepted article in his creed. The mediæval German crowns, of which he had many choice examples, are especially rich in heraldic devices. They furnish the student who knows how to read them with a store of information concerning the family alliances of German princes, for which he will vainly seek in the meagre chronicles that are accessible in our libraries, and their testimony is beyond dispute. These coins have been well catalogued by Madai (1757–'74), and still more completely in the later Schulthess-Rechberg work (1840–'67). The latter identifies and thoroughly explains the armorial bearings, which the former neglects. With both of these works Mr. Appleton was familiar.

His knowledge of the science of heraldry, and of its history, was very exact; and in saying this we do not mean that he merely possessed that superficial skill which is content with the ability to blazon a coat correctly. He knew the origin and significance of many family devices, their history, their "differences," and the marriages recorded by their quarterings; but he had little sympathy with the fanciful interpretations which some of the old writers assign to heraldic charges. He read *cum grano salis* what Dugdale and Guillim, Camden and Leigh, and Dame Julyana Berners, in the "Boke of St. Albans," have gravely told us concerning their occult meaning. He might perhaps have accepted Lindsay's declaration, in his "Letters on Christian Art," that heraldry is the last remnant of ancient symbolism, but he would hardly have admitted without qualification his further statement, that "the griffins and unicorns, the fesses and chevrons, the very tinctures and colors, are *all* symbolical, each having its mystical meaning." He regretted the popular belief that "the gentle science" is a mere catalogue of terms, "full of voices to those who understand them," perhaps, but utterly unintelligible to all the world beside; and in the Heraldic Journal, with which he was connected for the three years of its all too brief existence, and the third volume of which he edited, he labored earnestly to dispel that supreme ignorance of the simplest rudiments of heraldry, which has led so many thoughtless people in America to assume arms to which they have not the shadow of right, simply because "Burke's Armory" tells them such arms are used by some English family, whose name chances to be identical with their own.

In an "Autobiographical Statement," found among his papers after his death, he mentions among the things which he hoped might be associated with his memory, that in 1885 he "established the arms and seal of Harvard University, for which" he "received the formal thanks of the Corporation." One other note in this statement is so characteristic of Mr. Appleton's frank declarations of his convictions, that it must not be omitted here. He wrote: "I am one of those who object to the naked boys over the door of Boston's Public

Library, as poor in art, worse as part of a seal, and worst of all in their offensive vulgarity."

Of his genealogical work it seems almost needless to say a word to the readers of the REGISTER. From 1863 to 1872, he served on its Publishing Committee; his papers on family history were occasionally printed in its pages. His first contribution to this subject, on the "Family of Nathaniel Sparhawk, of Cambridge," appeared in April, 1865; this was followed in the next issue by that on "The Family of Badcock in Massachusetts," which he reprinted (corrected and enlarged) in 1881; in 1868 he contributed notes on the Puffer Family, and in 1874, a paper on the Descendants of William Sawyer. Other genealogies of greater or less length, chiefly in his own ancestral lines, he printed privately, or in the REGISTER. A very complete bibliography of his literary labors may be found in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society for October, 1903; this was carefully prepared by his associate, Mr. Charles C. Smith, and covers four pages. To that list a single addition may perhaps be made. When in Europe, a few years after he graduated, he found a curious volume in manuscript, entitled "The Book of Coates And Creasts, Begonne the 2d of May, 1602, by Wm. Smith, Rougedragon," and containing upwards of four thousand coats, nearly all blazoned in their proper tinctures. He had begun to print a limited edition of this valuable work in the summer of 1872. It was not completed when the great fire of 1872 destroyed all but one or two copies of the finished sheets, and he never resumed the publication. He left in manuscript an interesting translation of a German book, "Die Höfe der Mediatisirten," which it is hoped may yet be published.

While abroad, Mr. Appleton's love of genealogical research led him to give much time to the study of wills and of early Parish Registers in various places, and how successful he was in obtaining the information he sought is evident from his contributions to the several family histories which have been mentioned. His thorough acquaintance with the genealogical work which has made such wonderful progress in the last quarter of a century in America rendered it easy for him to discern the importance of many of the records he found in these investigations; one of less experience or acuteness of judgment would have passed them without recognition. The knowledge thus acquired,—much of which of course was entirely aside from the special investigations in which he was engaged,—was often of service to his friends, and was most freely and willingly given. His memory for names and family connections was remarkable, and thus, when studying the vital records contained in the Parish Registers of rural churches in England he found entries which might be of interest to some student at home, he was quick to recognize their value, and it gave him pleasure to bring them to the attention of

those who had been baffled in searching for the clue which he had discovered.

In this connection I may be pardoned for mentioning that, on his return from his last visit abroad, Mr. Appleton gave me the reference to a certain will that he found in London, which made it possible for me to trace my own ancestral line to its home in Essex, England. The editor of the REGISTER has informed me of a similar courtesy in his own experience, which enabled him to locate definitely the English ancestry of the Tayer, or Thayer, family*; and other instances might be given of his cordial and sympathetic aid, and of the happy results which followed his wise suggestions to genealogical students. The ability to recognize the connection between these hidden sources of material for New England family history and the lines of descent on this side of the ocean, and their importance to American genealogists, at that period at least when he began his researches abroad, required not only a familiarity with what had already been accomplished in genealogical research, but also a peculiar faculty, and a ready memory not alone of American but of English records and the places where they could be found; and these advantages Mr. Appleton possessed in an unusual degree.

In the "Statement" to which reference has been made above, he could well say, and without the slightest vanity, "I claim the credit of the discovery of the two 'Candler manuscripts' in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and the recognition of their value to American genealogists. I also claim the credit, at least equally with any other person, of first calling the attention to the importance to American genealogists and families, of the wills at Doctors' Commons, in Her Majesty's Principal Registry of Probate," in Somerset House, London. It was his recognition of the wealth of this mine of information, if I may so call it, then unexplored by American students, that led him to take so deep an interest in the Society's Committee of English Research, of which he was for some years the chairman. I am permitted to give the following extracts from letters written by Mr. Henry F. Waters to Mr. Appleton. Under date of London, 22 Feb., 1896, he said: "While I regret to learn how small a chance you think there is for going on, as before, another year, let me express my hearty thanks for your five years' efforts. How much these New England genealogists and family historians owe you and Mr. Goodwin for the way in which you have kept up this work! — probably how little they realize the bother and trouble and sacrifice on your parts. For myself, I think I do realize it, and I feel most grateful for it all." And in a later letter from London, dated August 11, 1897, he wrote again: "I deeply regret that our long and to me

* While passing through Thornbury, Gloucestershire, England, Mr. Appleton visited St. Mary's Church, where he noticed a tablet to the memory of John Tayer, and so informed Mr. Woods, who knew that the emigrants Thomas and Richard came to New England from the west of England, but had not absolutely determined the locality.

very agreeable relationship in the matter of these English researches is about to come to an end. I could not expect to find any other chairman of committee so heartily in sympathy with my work; for it is a work into which you entered long before I attempted it. We have indeed accomplished much during these six years that you have held the chairmanship, and I feel very grateful that you have held on so long. To you and Mr. Goodwin the thanks of very many beside myself are due for what, I think I can say without vanity, must be deemed the most valuable contributions to the REGISTER (on the whole), for nearly a dozen years."

In the early days of the REGISTER, Mr. Appleton was one of "The Register Club," which was composed of gentlemen who aided in sustaining the magazine and ensuring its continued publication, before the public interest in genealogy had made such support no longer necessary. He served in 1865, 1868, and 1870.

In May, 1869, Mr. Appleton was elected a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and to the close of his life took an active interest in its work; in April, 1873, he was chosen one of its Standing Committee, and the following year its Cabinet-Keeper, which position he filled for six years. He was one of the Record Commissioners of Boston from 1875 until that Commission was abolished in July, 1892, serving without compensation; in the discharge of that duty he was associated with the late Mr. William H. Whitmore, also a member of the Historical Society and of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society. He edited three volumes of the Commission's Reports, the Ninth and the Twenty-fourth, "Boston Births," etc., covering the period from 1630 to 1800, and the Twenty-first, "Dorchester Births, Deaths and Marriages."

He joined the New-England Historic Genealogical Society in February, 1859, and became a life member in 1864; in November, 1878, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in November, 1892, an Honorary Member of the American Numismatic and Archæological Society, of New York, of which he had previously been a Corresponding Member for many years. He was a founder of the Bostonian Society, and one of its directors, serving in all ten years; he was also a member of other learned societies devoted to the special subjects in which he was interested, while his frequent, and one might say his systematic, visits to the Libraries of the Historical and Genealogical Societies, the Boston Athenæum, and the Public Library, kept him well informed in the literature of his favorite studies.

Mr. Appleton will be greatly missed, but it was truly said by his biographer, Mr. Charles C. Smith, in his Memoir read before the Historical Society, that he has "left a bright example of large and faithful service."

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MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM SUMNER APPLETON, A.M.

BY

CHARLES C. SMITH.

[Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, October, 1903.]

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MEMOIR

WILLIAM SUMNER APPLETON was born in Boston January 11, 1840, and died in his native city April 28, 1903. He was the elder son of the Hon. Nathan Appleton, for nearly thirty years a member of this Society, and for three sessions a Representative in Congress from the Boston district, by his second wife, Harriot Coffin, daughter of Jesse Sumner, of Boston. On both his father's side and his mother's he was descended from ancestors who were among the first settlers of Massachusetts, Samuel Appleton at Ipswich and William Sumner at Dorchester. Of his father it was truly said, not long after his death, that he was "a merchant of large enterprise and unsullied integrity; a member of many learned societies; a writer of many able essays on commerce and currency; a wise and prudent counsellor in all private and public affairs; who had served with marked distinction in the legislative halls both of the State and of the nation, and who had enjoyed through life the esteem, respect, and confidence of the community in which he lived."[1] And in the equally just words of another: "Emphatically a merchant, his mind was not narrowed nor his heart contracted by the influence of a special calling. His inquiry and his information were extensive. Acquainted with political history and the principles of civil government, with all questions of national finance, with some branches of physical science, with Christian theology and biblical criticism, so far as was needful for the stability or the

[1] Memoir by Hon. Robert C. Winthrop in Proceedings, vol. v. p. 250.

defence of his own faith, he was ready to communicate the fruits of his research for the benefit of others." [1] Such was the example which was set before young Appleton as he was growing up, and such the sturdy and sterling qualities which he afterward exhibited in his own life and character.

As a small boy he was sent to a boarding-school at Jamaica Plain, then kept by Mr. Cornelius M. Vinson, which had enjoyed a wide reputation under the management of Mr. Charles W. Greene, its first principal. He was fitted for college in the private Latin School of Mr. Epes S. Dixwell, who had recently resigned the head mastership of the Boston Latin School, and who was the most eminent classical teacher in this community. The thoroughness of his preparation was seen in his high rank in the first three years of his college course. He graduated in 1860 in the first half of his class, being entitled to a part at Commencement, a disquisition on "A Uniform Coinage." This assignment shows, as does his election to membership in the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, in February, 1859, while he was a Junior in college, at how early a period those tastes were developed which he afterward cultivated so assiduously and so successfully; and it is little matter for surprise that he did not gain the high distinction in college which might have been anticipated for him if his attention had not been diverted by other, and to him more fascinating, studies. In the year in which he graduated he was one of the founders of the Boston Numismatic Society, and he was its secretary from that time until his death. His interest in coins and medals dates back to his boyhood, and is mentioned in some of his earliest letters. This study never lost its attractiveness for him, and was pursued to the end of his life. At his death his collection, which was remarkable both for the beauty and the rarity of its specimens, included about twelve thousand coins and three thousand medals, the greater part of

[1] Sermon preached July 21, 1861, the Sunday after the Funeral of the late Hon. Nathan Appleton, by Ezra S. Gannett, D.D., p. 17.

which he had himself catalogued with great minuteness. Besides being one of the original members of the Numismatic Society, he was one of the Publishing Committee of the American Journal of Numismatics from 1870 to 1891, and made many short communications to it. Closely akin to his interest in numismatics, and growing out of it, was his interest in heraldry, which he had thoroughly studied and well mastered. Probably no person on this side of the Atlantic had a more minute and more comprehensive knowledge of the subject; and his opinion on any question connected with it was wellnigh conclusive. From 1865 to 1868 he was one of the Publishing Committee of the short-lived Heraldic Journal, and wrote much for it. In 1867, at the early age of twenty-seven, he was honored with an appointment as one of the commission to attend the annual assay of the United States Mint. It was a well-merited compliment, and reflected scarcely less honor on the administration which conferred it than it did on the recipient. From 1864 to 1872 he was one of the Publishing Committee of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

Immediately after graduating Mr. Appleton spent two months in travel in Canada and the Western States; and in April, 1862, he went abroad for the first of six visits to Europe, passing most of the summer and autumn in Great Britain, and reaching home at the end of November. Inheriting from his father, who died in 1861, and his mother, who died in 1867, an ample fortune, he had no need to pursue any gainful profession; but he nevertheless entered the Cambridge Law School, and graduated in July, 1865, with the degree of LL.B. Two weeks later he again sailed for Europe. He remained abroad a little more than a year, and travelled in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Turkey, Palestine, Egypt, Greece, and Italy. During a large part of this trip he had Phillips Brooks, afterward Bishop Brooks, as his travelling companion, and for four weeks in the Holy Land they rode side

by side during the day, and slept every night in the same tent. In less than two years after his return, in June, 1868, he started for a journey around the world. Besides the countries already mentioned he visited Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Poland, Dalmatia, Montenegro, and Spain; and in January, 1869, he sailed from Marseilles for Bombay and the Far East. After travelling in Hindostan and visiting most of the accessible places of interest in the Philippines, China, and Japan, he reached home by the way of San Francisco in the autumn of 1869. While absent he was elected, in May, 1869, a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society; and for nearly thirty-four years, whether at home or abroad, he took a deep and active interest in the work of the Society. In a letter to the writer of this memoir, from Pyrmont in June, 1887, he expressed a strong wish to have the serial parts of the Proceedings sent to him, and added: "It is a pleasure to keep up with the work of the Society, and there might chance occasionally to be a suggestion of something which one could do on this side the water."

In February and March, 1871, he visited the Southern States and Cuba. But this seems only to have increased his fondness for more distant travel; and in the following June he went again to Europe, remaining abroad rather more than a year. On this visit, August 12, 1871, he was married, at the United States Legation in Berne, Switzerland, to Edith Stuart, daughter of his cousin William Stuart Appleton, of Baltimore, Maryland. His eldest child, a daughter, was born in Paris, before his return to Boston.

The next four years were passed at home; and at the annual meeting of this Society in April, 1873, he was elected a member of the Standing Committee. At the end of a year's service he was elected Cabinet-Keeper, which office he filled for six years. On the creation of the Record Commission of Boston, in 1875, he was appointed one of the two Commissioners, and he held this office, to which no salary was attached, until

the Commission was abolished in July, 1892. As a Commissioner he edited the Ninth Report, "Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630–1699"; the Twenty-first Report, "Dorchester Births, Deaths, and Marriages"; and the Twenty-fourth Report, "Boston Births, 1700–1800."

In November, 1876, he went to Europe for the fifth time, returning in June, 1877. During this visit he extended his travels to the islands of Sicily and Malta. After his return, in November, 1878, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Class III., Section II., Philology and Archæology. He never, however, contributed anything to the printed Transactions of the Academy.

After remaining at home for nearly nine years, actively engaged in his favorite pursuits, he sailed, in May, 1886, for his last and longest visit to Europe, returning in June, 1889. Most of the time was passed in Germany, France, England, Belgium, Holland, and Italy; and for two successive summers he resided in the little town of Pyrmont, once a noted watering-place, in Germany, not far from Hanover, where he spent one winter. A little more than two years after his return, January 20, 1892, his wife died. The remainder of his life was spent quietly, a part of each year in a new house which he had built on Beacon Street, near Hereford Street, and a part on his large and beautiful estate near Oak Hill, Newton Centre. For a country life he acquired a genuine taste, and often spoke of his reluctance to come into town. He found a congenial occupation in cutting his own trees and overseeing the routine of a farmer's life.

In 1898 Mr. Appleton drew up a short paper which was found after his death in an envelope marked "Autobiographical Statement," and which begins as follows: "A short memoir of my life must be written for several Societies to which I belong, the most important perhaps being that for the Massachusetts Historical Society. I hope that in that one at least something may be printed to the following effect, be-

ing all that I care to leave in the form of an autobiographical statement." This paper is so characteristic of the writer that a biographer would find small excuse for not complying with so plain an injunction. With one or two unimportant omissions it is here given just as it was written: "It has been my fortune, or misfortune, to be generally in the minority. I have always belonged to a religious body which is small in acknowledged numbers, even if it has been, as I think, of far greater influence than mere figures would warrant; and in this body I seem at this date to be in a small minority, one of those who adhere to old-fashioned, conservative, Christian Unitarianism. I was an independent in politics long before the mugwump was imagined, and almost never voted a straight party ticket, but declined to allow my name to be brought before nominating conventions, republican and democratic. . . . I have alone voted *no* in a meeting of my class at Harvard, and did not regret it. I was one of those who voted against the amendment which allows a pauper to be chosen Governor of the Commonwealth. I have always regretted the death of the Election Sermon and the murder of Fast Day. I am one of those, apparently few in this country, who think that things are not necessarily bad because old or old-fashioned, and therefore I deeply regret that Harvard's catalogue of her graduates is no longer printed in Latin. I am one of those who object to the naked boys over the door of Boston's Public Library, as poor in art, worse as part of a seal, and worst of all in their offensive vulgarity."

To this he added: "I claim the credit of the discovery of the two 'Candler' manuscripts in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and the recognition of their value to American genealogists. I also claim the credit, at least equally with any other person, of first calling attention to the importance for American genealogists and families of the wills at Doctors' Commons, now Her Majesty's Principal Registry of Probate. . . . In 1885 I established the arms and seal of Harvard

University, for which I received the formal thanks of the Corporation."

Filed with this statement was a copy of a clause in a will drawn up by him in June, 1868, before his marriage, "which circumstances happily kept from realization," and of which he very much wished mention should be made in any record of his life. By it he gave to fifteen trustees, most of whom are no longer living, but two of whom are still members of this Society, "the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, together with my real estate lying on Commonwealth Avenue and Clarendon Street in said Boston, being two lots, — to be held by them in trust, and for such uses and purposes as are understood by the words 'Gallery of Art and School of Design,' and I desire that they should become and be a corporation of fifteen members, with power to fill any vacancies in their number, and that the consent and assent of nine should be necessary to any act in order to be binding; and that a suitable building be erected on the land in their hands at an expense not to exceed one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. I also give them all works of art, such as paintings, which are in my possession, and which are not family memorials, and my wish and hope is, that such action should be taken by them as that the collection of works of art belonging to the Boston Athenæum should be permanently placed in the building to be erected by them. And my object in this bequest is to contribute as far as possible to the improvement and development of the Fine Arts in this country, to which end I earnestly desire the above-named trustees to labor in the exercise of this trust which I give to them, confiding in their ability and readiness to perform the same so that it may be a means of great benefit."[1] It is within the recollection of some of the older members of this Society that the provisions

[1] The will from which this is an extract was drawn up before the first movement for establishing the Museum of Fine Arts. That institution was not incorporated until February, 1870.

of another will of later date, by which the Society would have greatly benefited, were rendered of no effect by the escape of Mr. Appleton and his family from the perils of ocean navigation and foreign travel at a time when those perils had been very deeply impressed on the minds of Bostonians going abroad. Before leaving this subject it may be proper to add that by his last will, dated April 25, 1902, Mr. Appleton gave in a certain remote contingency a very valuable and important part of his collection of medals and coins to the Historical Society; and in another more remote contingency he directed the trustees under his will to pay over specified sums to numerous literary, scientific, and charitable societies or institutions, the first of which was this Society, and among the others were the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the New England Historic-Genealogical Society.

Mr. Appleton's investigations in numismatics, heraldry, and genealogy, the studies which earliest and longest engaged his attention, were thorough, exact, and methodical. He was never satisfied until he had reached the final result; and in the case of the Sumner Genealogy he printed ten supplements. He never allowed himself to be deceived by pretentious claims to family antiquity and high descent based on no sufficient foundations; and he remorselessly pricked many bubble reputations. Besides his numerous contributions to the various periodicals of which he was either an editor or contributor, Mr. Appleton printed separately at least ten genealogies and other works. The earliest of these was an account, printed in 1867, of the "Ancestry of Mary Oliver," wife of Samuel Appleton, Jr., of Ipswich, son of the first immigrant, with an Appendix. His next publication was an elaborate account, printed in the following year, of the "Cranes of Chilton," from whom also he was descended. In the Introduction to it he makes a very characteristic statement, which shows how thorough and accurate was his work: "In preparing this record of a line of my own ancestry, I am glad to have an

opportunity of showing the richness of genealogical material in England, and also the great difficulty of forming a sure and true pedigree. The Cranes of Chilton, though belonging to the gentry of the county of Suffolk, were by no means an important family in English history; yet I have been able to examine at least twenty manuscripts, giving a genealogy of this race, no one of which is free from mistake." This was followed two years afterward by a third contribution to his family genealogy, in a still larger volume on the "Ancestry of Priscilla Baker," wife of Isaac Appleton, of Ipswich. "The chief reason for printing this volume," he says in his Introduction, "is the opportunity which it gives of preparing better and fuller genealogies of the families of Symonds and Reade than can be found in any book which I have ever seen." It is a perfect storehouse of wills and other documents relating to the families mentioned. Next we have, in 1873 and 1874, two editions of the "Genealogy of the Appleton Family." Of these only a very small number of copies were printed, as a rough sketch of a larger Genealogy of the family in its various branches which it was his intention and hope to prepare, but which was left unfinished at his death. His largest and most important work in this field was the "Record of the Descendants of William Sumner, of Dorchester, Mass., 1636," published in 1879, and continued by supplementary leaflets almost to the last year of his life. After a considerable interval he printed, in 1893, an important collection of "Early Wills illustrating the Ancestry of Harriot Coffin, with Genealogical and Biographical Notes"; and this was followed in 1896 by "Gatherings toward a Genealogy of the Coffin Family." In 1899 he prepared and printed a small pamphlet entitled "The Family of Armistead of Virginia." This embodied little original research, but was mainly an abridgment and rearrangement of a larger genealogy prepared by Lyon G. Tyler, President of William and Mary College, and printed in the Quarterly of that institution. "The reason of my own

interest in the family," says Mr. Appleton, "appears in the sixth generation. I have therefore arranged in simple genealogical shape so much of the matter in the Quarterly as was necessary for the purpose," which was to trace his wife's ancestry. His last genealogical publication was issued a little more than a year before his death under the title of "Family Letters from the Bodleian Library, with Notes." The collection comprises thirty-six letters relating to the family of Appleton of Little Waldingfield, the immediate relatives of the immigrant to New England. An examination of these independent publications shows how persistent was the energy which he put into his genealogical researches, and fully justifies his reputation as a genealogist.

His wide travels had stored his mind with a fund of useful knowledge, and on many subjects he was an authority of the first rank. Few men were more constant in their attendance at the meetings of this Society, or more frequent in their visits to the rooms at other times; and in these visits the Publishing Committees were indebted to him for many valuable suggestions. His interest in the broader aspects of history, it must be said, was subsidiary to his interest in his earlier studies, and his numerous communications in the Proceedings, which were usually quite short, were mainly illustrative of them. His first important communication, and one of the longest, was made in April, 1870, at a very agreeable social meeting held at the house in Beacon Street, which had been the residence of his father and mother. He then exhibited a rare collection of coins and medals relating to America, and communicated a minute description of them which is printed in the eleventh volume of the Proceedings. In October, 1872, at the first meeting after his return from his fourth visit to Europe, he communicated some interesting letters of Paul Jones. In September, 1873, he read a short paper on a curious French caricature relating to the Scioto Company; and in the following January he read a paper on the seal of Jamaica, which

probably suggested the design for the great seal of New England. At the meeting, three months later, at which he was elected Cabinet-Keeper, he gave an interesting description of the Washington medals at one time owned by Daniel Webster and now in the possession of this Society. In November, 1874, he made some remarks on the Albemarle portrait of Washington by Peale, a copy of which had recently been presented to the Society. In November of the following year he described some little known caricatures relating to the American Revolution. In June, 1882, he paid an appropriate tribute to Colonel Joseph L. Chester, whose name will always be associated with the study of American genealogies in England; and in November, 1884, he communicated for the Proceedings a memoir of another well-known genealogist, Horatio G. Somerby. This and the memoir of William H. Whitmore, in May, 1901, were the only memoirs which he wrote for the Society. In January, 1886, he made some remarks on the flag carried by the company from Bedford during the Revolution; and in the following December he transmitted from Hanover, where he was then residing with his family, a translation of an article which had appeared in a German publication on the voyages of the Northmen. This was followed in March, 1888, by a letter from Paris on Count Rochambeau. Shortly after his return home, in December, 1889, he made some remarks on the character and writings of the late Emile Belot and on "the great literary interest in this country felt in Europe and especially in France"; and at the next meeting he communicated some genealogical notes made while he was in London. These were followed in March by a carefully prepared paper on the great French medallist, Augustin Dupré and his Work for America; and in May by some miscellaneous notes. In June, 1891, he communicated several interesting papers connected with the Loyal Petitions of 1666, with brief explanatory remarks. On the death of Bishop Brooks he paid a tribute to his memory at the meeting

in February, 1893, with interesting personal recollections; and at the March meeting he read a paper on Hugh Peter in Literature. In February, 1894, he exhibited and described two rare medals, the Oswego Medal and the so-called Diplomatic Medal. In March, 1895, he made one of his most important contributions to our Proceedings, a complete roll of the United States Senate for the first century of its existence, with notes. This was a work of great labor and research, involving a vast amount of correspondence; and in the end he was able to ascertain the date and place of death of all the members, eight hundred and forty-eight in number, with only two exceptions. A separate edition was afterward published for sale. Two years later he read a short paper on the character and personal relations of the Whigs of Massachusetts during the period from 1840 to 1850. In February, 1898, after the sale of the Tremont Street estate, the stated meeting was held at his new house in Beacon Street, and the use of his parlors was offered to the Council for any other meetings which it might be convenient to hold there before the completion of the Society's new building. In December, 1899, he communicated a short paper on Senatorial Biography. His last important contribution to the Proceedings was in June, 1901, when he read a keen and searching paper on Heraldry in America.

This enumeration includes only his more important contributions to the Proceedings of the Society; but it sufficiently indicates how great an interest he took in carrying on the work which our founders had in view, and what special fields of inquiry most attracted him. He never served on any Publishing Committee, and with the exception of one year on the Executive Committee and six years as Cabinet-Keeper he had no direct and avowed part in determining the policy of the Society; but few of the so-called working members did more or better work, in a quiet and unobtrusive way. His written style was clear, direct, and forceful, but it lacked that flexibil-

ity of expression which so often comes from constant practice, and in which specialists are so apt to be deficient. An ineffective delivery and an indistinctness of speech, especially in his later years, detracted much from the interest with which his papers and remarks were listened to; but their value was at once seen when written out in his clear and beautiful handwriting or transferred to the printed page.

Like his father, who printed late in life a correspondence with a clergyman of the Church of England on "The Doctrines of Original Sin and the Trinity," Mr. Appleton was a steadfast Unitarian of the older school — the school of Channing and Gannett — and looked with strong aversion on the latitudinarian tendencies which were creeping into the denomination. In 1896 he printed for private distribution a pamphlet entitled "Views of Unitarian Belief held by a Layman of Boston. Written for the Unitarian Club of Boston, but never read before it." It was, as might have been readily anticipated, a vigorous and outspoken statement of his theological opinions and of his total dissent from the then recent action of the National Conference of Unitarian Churches at Saratoga. He felt, as did many others, that the denomination had taken a further step backward from the high ground assumed at the formation of the Conference, thirty years before, in the city of New York. His earliest associations were with the "Federal Street meeting-house," where his father regularly worshipped; but after the removal of the congregation to Arlington Street, and later in life, he was an attendant at King's Chapel.

In his early years he was fond of dancing and social life. From 1864 to 1871 he was a member of the Independent Corps of Cadets, and for the last four years was in command of a company, with the rank of first lieutenant. After his wife's death he did not go much into society. In college he belonged to few if any of the undergraduate fraternities; but he was afterward a member of the Thursday Evening Club, which he frequently entertained at his house, and of the Union

Club. He was also one of the founders of the Bostonian Society, an original member of the Eastern Yacht Club, and a member of the Boston Art Club, the Boston Society of Natural History, the Prince Society, the American Historical Association, and various other societies.

He had five children, a son and four daughters, all of whom were living at his death. To them he left an unsullied reputation, as did his father and a long line of honored ancestors on both sides of the Atlantic. To his associates in this Society, and especially to those who were brought into closest relation with him, he left a bright example of large and faithful service.

Copies of the following books and pamphlets are in the Library of the Historical Society. It is believed that the list includes all of Mr. Appleton's writings, except contributions to periodicals and the Proceedings of this Society which were not separately printed.

Proofs that general and powerful Currents have swept and worn the surface of the Earth. By Nathan Appleton. [Reprinted from the American Journal of Science and Arts (XI. 100–104) for October, 1826, and edited by his son.] Boston, 1862. 8vo. pp. 11.

Family of Nathaniel Sparhawk of Cambridge. [Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XIX. 125–127) for April, 1865.] No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 2, (1).

The Family of Badcock of Milton, Mass. [Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XIX. 215–219) for July, 1865.] No imprint. 8vo. pp. (1), 5.

Descendants of Rev. Thomas Jenner. [Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XIX. 246–249) for July, 1865.] No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

Ancestry of Mary Oliver, who lived 1640–1698, and was wife of Samuel Appleton, of Ipswich. Cambridge, 1867. 8vo. pp. 29, (1), (4).

The Heraldic Journal; recording the Armorial Bearings and Genealogies of American Families. Volume III. Boston, 1867. 8vo. pp. viii, 192. [Mr. Appleton was editor of this volume.]

Memorials of the Cranes of Chilton, with a Pedigree of the Family,

and the Life of the last Representative. Cambridge, 1868. Plates and other illustrations. 8vo. pp. (1), (1), 1–34, chart, 39–89.

American Journal of Numismatics, and Bulletin of American Numismatic and Archæological Societies. Quarterly. Vol. V. [to XXV.] July, 1870–July, 1871 [to April, 1891]. Committee of Publication. William Sumner Appleton. Samuel Abbott Green, Jeremiah Colburn [and William T. R. Marvin from July, 1887]. Boston, 1871 [to 1891]. 8vo.

Description of a Selection of Coins and Medals relating to America, exhibited to the Massachusetts Historical Society, April 28, 1870. Reprinted from the Proceedings [XI. 292–305]. Cambridge, 1870. 8vo. pp. 16.

Ancestry of Priscilla Baker, who lived 1674–1731, and was wife of Isaac Appleton, of Ipswich. Cambridge, 1870. Charts. 8vo. pp. (1), (1), 142.

Family of Foster, of Charlestown, Mass. [By Edward Jacob Forster and Mr. Appleton.] Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register [XXV. 67–71] for January, 1871. No imprint. 8vo. pp. 6.

A Rough Sketch of the Appleton Genealogy. Printed for Correction and Enlargement. Boston, 1873. 8vo. pp. 42.

Description of Medals of Washington in the Collection of W. S. Appleton, Secretary of the Boston Numismatic Society. [Reprinted from the American Journal of Numismatics (VII. 73–78; VIII. 1–9, 33–41) for April, July, and October, 1873.] Boston, 1873. 8vo. pp. 24.

A Genealogy of the Appleton Family. Boston, 1874. 8vo. pp. 54.

Issues of the United States Mint, chronologically arranged, and described. Reprinted from the American Journal of Numismatics (IX. 86–89; X. 7–11, 38–41, 55–58, 81–83, for April, July, October, 1875, January and April, 1876). 1876. No place. 8vo. pp. 20.

Record of the Descendants of William Sumner, of Dorchester, Mass., 1636. Boston, 1879. 8vo. pp. v, 204.

[Thomas] Gray and [Rowland] Coytmore. Two English Wills, printed for W. S. Appleton. [Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XXXIV. 253–259) for July, 1880.] Boston, 1880. 8vo. pp. (1), 7.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1881. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

Some Descendants of William Adams of Ipswich, Mass. [Enlarged from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XVIII. 244) for July, 1864.] Boston, 1881. 8vo. pp. (1), 8.

The Family of Badcock of Massachusetts. [Corrected and enlarged from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XIX. 215–219) for July, 1865.] Boston, 1881. 8vo. pp. (1), 11.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1882. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 4.

The Family of Puffer of Massachusetts. [Corrected and enlarged from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XXII. 288–290) for July, 1868.] Boston, 1882. 8vo. pp. (1), 9.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1883. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

A Report [9th] of the Record Commissioners containing Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630–1699. Boston, 1883. 8vo. pp. vii, 281.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1886. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

Major-General Edwin V. Sumner. From "History of the Second Army Corps in the Army of the Potomac," by Brig.-Gen. Francis A. Walker. 1887. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 4.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1890. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

Augustin Dupré, and his Work for America. Remarks made before the Massachusetts Historical Society, March 13, 1890. [Reprinted from the Proceedings (2d series, V. 348–352).] Cambridge, 1890. 8vo. pp. 6.

A Report [21st] of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston, containing Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths to the end of 1825. Boston, 1890. 8vo. pp. iv, 392.

Some Descendants of William Sawyer of Newbury, Mass. [Corrected and Enlarged from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XXVIII. 194–198) for April, 1874.] Boston, 1891. 8vo. pp. (1), 11.

Positive Pedigrees and Authorized Arms of New England. [Reprinted from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XLV. 187–190) for July, 1891.] Boston, 1891. 8vo. pp. 10.

The Loyal Petitions of 1666. Remarks read before the Massachusetts Historical Society, June 11, 1891. [Reprinted from the Proceedings (2d series, VI. 469–477).] Cambridge, 1891. 8vo. pp. 10.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1892. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

A partial Bibliography of the Sumner Family. [Boston, 1892.] No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

The Family of Merriam of Massachusetts. [Corrected and Enlarged from the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register (XXII. 160, 161; XXIV. 164, 165) for April, 1868, and April, 1870.] Boston, 1892. 8vo. pp. (1), 15.

Early Wills illustrating the Ancestry of Harriot Coffin, with Genealogical and Biographical Notes, by her Grandson. Boston, 1893. Portrait. 8vo. pp. (1), (1), 86.

A Report [24th] of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston, containing Boston Births from A. D. 1700 to A. D. 1800. Boston, 1894. 8vo. pp. iv, 379.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1895. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

A Century of the Senate of the United States. Prepared by William S. Appleton. Communicated to the Massachusetts Historical Society at its Meeting 14 March, 1895, and Reprinted from its Proceedings (2d series, X. 9–11, and charts). 8vo. pp. (1), (1), chart.

Gatherings toward a Genealogy of the Coffin Family. Boston, 1896. 8vo. pp. (1), (1), 53.

Views of Unitarian Belief held by a Layman of Boston. Written for the Unitarian Club of Boston, but never read before it. Cambridge, 1896. 8vo. pp. 12.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1897. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 5.

The Whigs of Massachusetts. Read before the Massachusetts Historical Society at the Meeting of March 11, 1897, and Reprinted from the Proceedings [2d series, XI. 278–282]. Cambridge, 1897. 8vo. pp. 7.

Additions to Positive Pedigrees and Authorized Arms of New England, printed in the [New-England Historical and Genealogical] Register for July, 1891. [Reprinted from the Register (LII. 185) for April, 1898.] 8vo. 1 p.

Index to Testators in Waters's Genealogical Gleanings in England in the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volumes XXXVII–LII. [Reprinted from the Register (LII. xiii–xxx) for October, 1898.] Boston: printed for the Society, 1898. 8vo. pp. 20.

Same. [Another issue, printed for the author.] Boston, 1898. 8vo. pp. 20.

The Family of Armistead of Virginia. Printed for W. S. Appleton. [Taken from a History of the Family in Virginia by Lyon G. Tyler, printed in the William and Mary College Quarterly (VI. and VII., Richmond, 1898, 1899), and "arranged in simple genealogical shape" by Mr. Appleton, with some additions by him.] Cambridge, 1899. 8vo. pp. 23.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1900. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

Memoir of William Henry Whitmore. [Reprinted from the Proceedings (2d series, XV. 96–104) of the Massachusetts Historical Society for May 9, 1901.] Cambridge, 1901. Portrait. 8vo. pp. 16.

Additions and Corrections to Sumner Genealogy. To January, 1902. No titlepage. 8vo. pp. 3.

Family Letters from the Bodleian Library. With Notes. Cambridge, 1902. 8vo. pp. 68.